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TDS TELECOM®

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Government and Regulatory Affairs

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September 4, 2002 REGULATORY AUTHORITY
DOCKET ROOM

Mr. Joe Werner
Chief, Telecommunications Division
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Re: TRA Docket No. 02-00879
Section 254(e) Certification of
TDS TELECOM/Tellico Telephone Company
To Receive USF Disbursements
in Calendar Year 2003

Dear Mr. Werner:

I, Kevin Hess, Vice President, Federal Affairs of TDS TELECOM/Tellico Telephone Company (the "Company") do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the following is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I am the Vice President, Federal Affairs of the Company;
2. The Company is a "rural telephone company" as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37), subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority;
3. The Company is eligible for disbursements from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and
4. The Company will utilize its USF disbursements for high cost support (including any high cost loop support, local switching support, high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges, high cost model support, and hold harmless support) received in 2003 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Hess w/permission BHM

Kevin Hess
Vice President, Federal Affairs